Liberalisation of Indian Economy

1692. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of company executives of United States have expressed the view that there is immediate need to liberalise the Indian Economy further to attract foreign investment in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that excise duties and tariffs in the country are still on the high side; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) to (c) The New Industrial Policy announced by the Government in July, 1991 has generated considerable interest amongst investors from several countries including those from the USA. Foreign investors from various countries continue to seek additional information or clarifications on the New Industrial Policy. The total direct foreign investment in India proposed by US companies in the foreign collaboration approvals issued in 1991 and 1992 totals Rs. 1858.5 million and Rs. 10073.1 million respectively as against Rs. 344.8 million in 1990. This shows continued increased interest of U.S. investors in investing in India.

Review of Excise duties and tariffs is a continuing process.

Action against directors of Cement Corporation of India

1693. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Vigilance Commission issued chargesheets against some of the directors of Cement Corporation of India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Public Undertaking Selection Board issued termination orders to the concerned official;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(e) whether it was referred to the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet; if so, whether it endorsed the proposal; and

(f) what action has been taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) No, Sir. However, during the last 3 years, the Ministry had issued charge sheets against two Directors of CCI viz. Dr. K. D. Gupta, Dir. (Pers.) and Sh. A. U. Rijhsinghani, Dir. (Proj.) in consultation with CVC.

(b) Both the Directors were chargesheeted for alleged acts of misconduct.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Shri Rijhsinghani retired on superannuation. In the case of Dr. K. D. Gupta, PESB conducted a joint appraisal of his performance and recommended premature termination of his services.

(e) and (f) The proposal for premature termination of the services of Dr. K. D. Gupta was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet and necessary orders have been issued terminating his appointment with effect from 26-11-1992.

Shortfall in availability of paper

1694. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that All India Small Paper Mills Association has recently predicted that there will be nearly 60 per cent shortfall in the availability of paper and card board by the turn of the century;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take to increase the production of paper and card board in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) All India Small Paper Mills Association have informed that a study undertaken on their behalf has estimated that the production of paper and paper board by the turn of the century would be around 27.7 lakh tonnes against a projected demand of 37.9 lakh tonnes. The shortfall in production has been attributed to the inadequate availability of wood based raw material and waste paper. Besides, rising costs of inputs viz. raw material, coal, power and chemicals may adversely affect profitability of paper mills resulting into lower production. The optional use of non-conventional raw material, agro residues and bagasse may also not be feasible due to problem of effluent control and their irregular availability.

(b) and (c) Government have taken various policy measures and provided following incentives to paper mills for sustained growth of the paper industry :

(i) Paper units using minimum 75% pulp derived from bagasse, agricultural residues and other non-conventional raw materials have been exempted from the provisions of compulsory licensing subject to clearance from the locational angle.

(ii) Paper units using minimum 75% agro-residues such as bagasse and jute are fully exempted from excise duty.

(iii) Paper mills using agro residues and other non-conventional raw materials atleast upto 50% are charged excise duty at concessional rates.

(iv) Import of wood pulp and waste paper is freely allowed under the EXIM policy at a low rate of customs duty without any need for obtaining import licence.

Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur, an autonomous body under Government and a premier institution for R&D in paper technology has undertaken several projects to assist non-wood based pulp and paper industry. The Institute is also engaged in developing appropriate technology for chemical recovery plant for small pulp mills using non woody raw material.

उत्तर प्रदेश में नए उद्योग

1695. श्री राम नरेश यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उत्तर प्रदेश में बेरोजगारी की समस्या को दूर करने के लिए चालू वर्ष और अगले वर्ष में इस राज्य में कितने उद्योग स्थापित किए जाने की योजना है,

(ख) उक्त उद्योगों को कितने जिलों में स्थापित किए जाने की संभावना है, और

(ग) उक्त उद्योगों से कितने व्यक्तियों को रोजगार प्राप्त होने की संभावना है ?

उद्योग मंत्रालय (औद्योगिक विकास विभाग) में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कृष्णासाही) : (क) से (ग) : उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने सूचित किया है कि चालू वर्ष तथा आगामी वर्ष में संयुक्त, सहायता प्राप्त तथा निजी क्षेत्र में लगभग 33,000 उद्योग लगाने की योजना है। ये उद्योग उक्त राज्य के प्रायः सभी जिलों में लगाये जाने हैं। इसमें लगभग 2.50 लाख व्यक्तियों को रोजगार मुहैया कराने का लक्ष्य निर्धारित करने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

विदेशी निवेश

1696. श्री राम नरेश यादव : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार की नई आर्थिक-नीति के परिणाम स्वरूप देश में होने वाले विदेशी पूंजी निवेश में महत्वपूर्ण वृद्धि हुई है,